

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5479
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE

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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, US, GR, TU
SUBJECT: MORE REACTION TO EMBARGO ISSUE AND TO TURKISH CYPRIOT
PROPOSALS ON CYPRUS

REF: ATHENS 3120

1. GREEK OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO ADHERE TO THE LINE THAT IT WOULD
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BE INAPPROPRIATE TO COMMENT ON THE TURKISH CYPRIOT (TC) PRO-
POSALS MADE TO UNSYG WALDHEIM SINCE THEIR SPECIFIC CONTENTS ARE
NOT YET KNOWN. THUS, THE GOG HAS MAINTAINED STRICT OFFICIAL
SILENCE. NEVERTHELESS, THE TC PROPOSALS AND DEVELOPMENTS RELATED
TO THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION TO SEEK THE REMOVAL OF
THE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO REMAIN LEADING NEWS ITEMS IN GREECE.
GREEK PUBLIC OPINION IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY HOPEFUL THAT THE

U.S. CONGRESS WILL REFUSE TO LIFT THE EMBARGO IN THE ABSENCE OF TURKISH MOVEMENT ON CYPRUS. THERE IS ALSO A GROWING GREEK FEELING THAT INTERNATIONAL OPINION DOES NOT CONSIDER THE TC PROPOSALS ADEQUATE TO JUSTIFY RESUMPTION OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS.

2. OVER THE PAST WEEKEND AND TODAY (APRIL 17) THE GREEK MEDIA HAVE BEEN FULL OF SPECULATION AS TO WHAT IS OR IS NOT HAPPENING IN WASHINGTON CONCERNING THE EMBARGO ISSUE. THE SUNDAY MARCH ON THE WHITE HOUSE RECEIVED WIDE ATTENTION AND WAS DESCRIBED AS A MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION ("TENS OF THOUSANDS"). STATEMENTS BY GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS AND CONGRESSIONAL FIGURES OPPOSED TO THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO ARE ALSO BEING PLAYED WIDELY. THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE APRIL 14 AND 17 HEARINGS WAS REPORTED BY SOME NEWSPAPERS AS EVIDENCE THE ADMINISTRATION IS WORRIED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS AND BY OTHERS THAT CONGRESS WANTS TO KNOW THE FULL CONTENTS OF THE TC PROPOSALS AND SEE WHAT DETERMINATION UNSYG WALDHEIM WILL MAKE BEFORE PURSUING FURTHER ACTION ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL. OTHER NEWSPAPERS WROTE CRITICALLY THAT THE POSTPONEMENT WAS BUT AN ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR THE AMERICANS TO LEVY GREATER PRESSURE ON THE GREEK CYPRIOTS AND ON GREECE TO ACCEPT THE TC PROPOSALS.

3. THE TC PROPOSALS PRESENTED LAST WEEK HAVE BEEN GENERALLY BRANDED IN GREECE AS "UNACCEPTABLE" AND SIMILAR TO THE PROPOSALS MADE BY THE TC LAST YEAR. MANY MEDIA REPORTS FROM NICOSIA, VIENNA AND ANKARA STRESSED THAT UNSYG WALDHEIM WAS AT ODDS WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TURKISH CYPRIOTS OVER THE PROPOSALS, UNDERLINING THAT HE HAD TWICE GONE BACK TO THE TC REPRESENTATIVES IN VIENNA TO SEEK "CLARIFICATIONS". MANY ACCOUNTS FILED FROM NICOSIA ALSO REPORT THAT ACCORDING TO INDICATIONS FROM UNNAMED GOVERNMENT SOURCES THE GOC WILL REJECT THE TC PROPOSALS. IN THIS CONNECTION, WALDHEIM'S COMMENTS WHILE OVERNIGHTING IN RHODES THAT HE WILL BE GOING TO NICOSIA ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, TO CONFER WITH THE LEADERS OF THE TWO CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES WERE BROADLY REPORTED, AND THE NICOSIA VISIT WAS SEEN AS BEING CRITICAL TO THE RESUMPTION OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS.

4. OTHER PROMINENT MEDIA STORIES INCLUDE REPORTS THAT PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS WILL BE IN THE U.S. FOR ABOUT TEN DAYS AT THE END OF MAY AND WILL HAVE WIDE RANGING DISCUSSIONS WHILE THERE. SOME NEWSPAPERS FEATURED ECEVIT'S BELGRADE DEPARTURE STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT HE HOPED TO PURSUE THE GREEK-TURKISH DIALOGUE AND THAT THROUGH THIS DIALOGUE AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED GIVING BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY RIGHTS IN THE AEGEAN. SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS WROTE FROM BRUSSELS THAT NATO CIRCLES EXPECTED THE EMBARGO TO BE LIFTED BEFORE THE NATO SUMMIT AS THE CLIMAX TO A PLAN AGREED UPON WHEN ECEVIT LAST VISITED THE U.S. FINALLY, LEFTIST ELEFTHEROTYPIA WROTE THAT WEST GERMANY SOUGHT TO BRING PRESSURE

ON THE GREEK CYPRIOTS TO ACCEPT THE TC PROPOSALS BY PROMISING
ECONOMIC AID TO BOTH COMMUNITIES.
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